

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
12/22/15 - 1/2/16

DISTRICT 1

CO Ethen Mapes checked over 30 fishermen on Lake Gogebic. Every fisherman had fish on the ice. Being the first good fishing weekend, many warnings were issued for no names on tip-ups, improper display of name and address on shanties, running to shore "real quick" and leaving their lines in the water. Overall it was an educational day for most of the fishermen on the ice.

CO Jared Ferguson was patrolling Eastern Iron County when he checked a local hotspot for fisherman. CO Ferguson observed two fishermen with six tip-ups out and a blue portable ice shack. CO Ferguson approached the shack and found two juveniles jigging inside the shack. A lesson was given to both 14 year olds about rules and regulations. Both were released and their parents were contacted.

CO Jared Ferguson was travelling to his family Christmas Eve get together when he observed four vehicles parked on the side of the road with flashers. CO Ferguson stopped, thinking it was a car accident, and found a mature Bald Eagle that was struck by a car. CO Ferguson advised the onlookers and asked them to disperse due to heavy traffic and safety issues. CO Ferguson was able to cover the bird, get it in his personal vehicle, and to the local raptor rehab for observation.

CO Jared Ferguson was called to a female loon that was caught in a field and couldn't fly. CO Ferguson traveled to the residence and retrieved the bird, which was in obvious distress. CO Ferguson then brought the bird to the Michigamme River to open water and released it. The loon began calling and playing in the water, and appeared to be in good health once in the water.

CO Adam LeClerc was working snowmobile patrol in Wakefield when he observed a snowmobile coming across Sunday Lake at a high rate of speed. The snowmobile and riders were not able to stop for the stop sign and entered onto M-28, almost being struck by a passing motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz was on patrol when she observed a group ice fishing on Lac Vieux Desert in Gogebic County. CO Kritz walked onto the ice to check the angler and his son. When the angler observed the CO approaching, he immediately walked to two tip-ups, pulled them out of the ice and put them onto his sled. When contacted, they still had six tip-ups in the water. The angler was cited for fishing with too many lines.

CO Shannon Kritz was on patrol when she stopped to check Pomeroy Lake in Gogebic County. A group of four anglers was observed with tip-ups out. CO Kritz contacted the group, and upon contact, a male from Wisconsin claimed not to be fishing. A quick count of tip-ups revealed there were eleven tip-ups and jig lines for the remaining three

fishermen. One subject confessed right away to having three tip-ups in and a jig line. The remaining two continuously denied responsibility for the last remaining extra tip-up until the Wisconsin resident finally confessed to having a tip-up in and not having a Michigan fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Chris Lynch and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon were on patrol when they received a complaint of a suspect with a gun and large amount of bait heading into the woods off of US 41. The COs responded and followed foot prints in the snow to a trailer where three large feed piles were freshly put out. The tracks then led the COs through the woods on a long walk until the suspect was located. The suspect was observed not wearing hunter orange, sneaking through the woods, carrying a scoped 30-30 rifle. Contact with the suspect was made and he said he was coyote hunting. The suspect was not stationary nor did he have a predator call in his possession. After a short walk back to the suspect's camp, the three bait piles, all greatly exceeding two gallons, were also pointed out and discussed. The COs and the suspect then walked to the suspect's vehicle and observed an uncased bow in his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon observed ice anglers on Round Lake setting out tip-ups. A check of the three subjects revealed two fishermen & one "observer" (not fishing), and seven lines in the water. A ticket was issued to the owner of the tip-ups for fishing too many lines. He was advised to buy his girlfriend a license next time he takes her fishing for a date.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon, CO Chris Lynch and CO Calvin Smith conducted several taxidermy inspections in Delta County. At one of the taxidermists, an untagged antlerless deer was located. When questioned about the deer, the owner of the taxidermist business stated that his son had shot the deer. A follow-up at the son's residence was conducted. It was determined that the doe was shot with a bow without an antlerless tag. The son had taken the deer to his dad's garage to hang it without telling his dad about it. The deer and archery equipment were seized, and enforcement action was taken.

While following up on an untagged red fox found while inspecting a local taxidermist, CO Freeborn was able to locate the individual who had brought it in. He is a summer resident who winters in Florida. He admitted picking up the road killed fox without a fur harvester license and taking it to the taxidermist. The suspect, feeling bad about his mistake, will be donating the mounted fox for education and display. A warning was given for the violation.

CO John Wenzel and CO Jon Busken were checking snowmobile trails when they observed a snowmobile drive through a stop sign. Contact was made with the operator, and it was observed that the snowmobile had an expired trail permit, and the registration was improperly displayed on the tunnel. Enforcement action was taken. In another instance, they observed two snowmobiles drive through a different stop sign. Contact was made and it was found that one of the subjects had a suspended driver's license. The subject was cited for operating a snowmobile while suspended.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Albert received a complaint that a subject had possibly shot a doe with a rifle the day before the late antlerless season opened. An interview with the suspect not only revealed that he shot the deer during the closed season, but also he did not buy a deer license this year. The deer was seized, and charges are being sought for taking a deer during the closed season.

CO Chad Baldwin received a complaint of a subject who during the deer season was hunting in violation of the safety zone restrictions. Upon inspection of the site, it appears the suspect was outside the safety zone, but there may be other related violations. The investigation continues.

CO Duane Budreau received a complaint from a land owner of someone dumping a deer carcass on his property. CO Budreau investigated the site and located a deer kill tag still attached to the carcass. The owner of the carcass was tracked down, made to remove the deer carcass, and properly dispose of it.

CO Mark DePew made a traffic stop for a motor vehicle violation, and found the driver to be operating while suspended and without insurance. He also had an outstanding warrant out for his arrest. CO DePew arrested and lodged the subject.

While exiting a gas station, CO Andrea Erratt observed a group of snowmobiles stopped on a nearby trail. Upon making contact with the group, it was discovered that one of the sleds had a registration that had expired in 2014. Enforcement action was taken.

After having addressed registration issues with one group of snowmobiles, CO Andrea Erratt encountered a second group of snowmobiles. One of the snowmobiles had an expired green 2015 registration in which the owner had taken a marker and changed the 5 to a 6 making it read 2016. The operator said he was planning to purchase the snowmobile and he had borrowed it from a friend who restores wrecked snowmobiles. He claimed he had not noticed that the expired registration decal had been altered. A check of the subject revealed his driver's license was denied and revoked. The subject's son was driving a second snowmobile that he said was registered to him, but it came back to the person he had purchased it from last summer. The third snowmobiler in the group did not have a trail permit, and he claimed he could not find his driver's license. A check of this subject revealed that his driver's license was suspended, denied and

revoked. CO Erratt ticketed both individuals for operating snowmobiles while their driver's licenses were denied and revoked, and for the expired registration and trail permit respectively. CO Erratt warned the first operator for failing to transfer his snowmobile registration within 15 days and for altering the registration decal. Instead of towing the snowmobiles, CO Erratt had family members come with a truck and trailer to take the sleds back home.

CO Paul Fox was on snowmobile patrol when he observed a snowmobile with expired registration. The registration had been expired since 2011. Contact was made with the owner and operator of the snowmobile. When asked about the expired registration, the owner advised that the registration should be current. A file check revealed that it was still expired and a citation was issued for the violation.

CO Paul Fox and CO Bill Webster were on patrol on state land when they contacted two hunters with rifles hunting during the private land late antlerless hunting deer season. The hunters thought they could hunt on state land for the season and were also found to only have combination licenses and no hunter orange. The hunters were issued citations for hunting deer with a rifle during the closed season and warned for the other violations.

CO Tim Rosochacki contacted a hunter during the late antlerless deer season hunting over bait in a county where baiting is prohibited. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Speigl worked an area where he had received a snowmobile trespass complaint. The sleds were operating over a farm field causing destruction. CO Speigl made contact with several sleds. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO William Haskin had a suspicion of an illegal deer taken during bow season. CO Haskin interviewed the person of interest and found that she had purchased the kill tag after her boyfriend had shot a deer. She tagged the deer her boyfriend shot. A written confession was obtained and the deer seized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin investigated a case where a deer was taken in early bow season. After interviewing the suspect CO Haskin was able to obtain a written confession stating she shot the deer and bought the tag afterwards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin noticed a snowmobile with no trail sticker on it. CO Haskin waived down the snowmobile operator. CO Haskin asked the operator for his identification and why he had not purchased a snowmobile trail sticker. The operator stated he had not gotten around to it yet and also that his driver's license was revoked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Newaygo County when he located a vehicle parked near a gate on federal land. CO Killingbeck ran the registered owner for a hunting license and no purchases were found for 2015. CO Killingbeck went back and checked the vehicle just before dark and located the hunter coming out of the woods carrying a bow. When asked for a license, the hunter told CO Killingbeck at first that he had misplaced his hunting licenses and later admitted to hunting without a license. Priors revealed this was the second time the hunter had been caught hunting in Newaygo County without a license and a LEIN check revealed a warrant for his arrest as well as a suspended driver's license. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Newaygo County Jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck followed ORV tracks from a recent snowfall and located an illegal ORV trail on public land that led to a blind without a name on it and too much deer bait. The hunter had cut down several trees and was also driving over small trees to get to the blind. CO Killingbeck continued following the tracks which led him to a residence nearby where he made contact with an individual who confessed to all the violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in a remote area on public land when he observed an operator of a vehicle who was not wearing a seatbelt. As CO Killingbeck turned around to stop the vehicle, he observed the vehicle picking up speed in an attempt to evade the CO and also failed to stop at an intersection. CO Killingbeck caught up with the vehicle and, upon activating emergency lights, the driver slammed on his brakes and skidded to a stop. The driver stuck his head and arms out the window and yelled "what's wrong?" CO Killingbeck explained why he was stopped and asked why the subject had picked up his speed and disregarded a stop sign after seeing CO Killingbeck. The subject stated "well I have to drive fast to make it through the mud". CO Killingbeck pointed out that there was no mud visible on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck had located a 4-point deer head at a processor and noticed the tag was purchased on November 15th after hunting hours were closed, and the tag was notched out for that same date. CO Killingbeck contacted the Ohio Wildlife Division for assistance interviewing the hunter who had used the license. An Ohio wildlife officer was able to get a confession that the deer was shot without a license and was also in violation of the antler point restrictions. Warrants are being requested through the Lake County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on snowmobile patrol when he observed a snowmobile operating without a registration and an improper display of a trail permit. CO Killingbeck

contacted the operator who said he had recently purchased the machine and had forgotten to register it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski, Manistee County, stopped a snowmobile for operating against the flow of traffic on a main county roadway. When CO Koscinski stopped the operator, he ran a file check and found that there was a local warrant for the subject for contempt of court. Not only did the operator receive a ticket for his illegal operation but he was also lodged for the outstanding warrant.

CO Brian Brosky, Mason County, followed up on information he had gathered from a taxidermy inspection where the records indicated that a subject had taken a deer without a license. CO Brosky contacted the hunter and asked him if he had a license when he shot the deer. The hunter advised that he "thought he had license" when he went out hunting. The hunter stated a family member had purchased a fishing license for him earlier in the year and he assumed his deer license was purchased at the same time. Unfortunately for the hunter, he didn't have a license when he took the 8-point buck. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ethan Gainforth was tipped off by another officer that a subject had a large bait pile in his back yard. CO Gainforth responded to the residence and made contact with the landowner who agreed to show CO Gainforth the pile of sugar beets behind his residence. When CO Gainforth questioned the landowner about the large pile, he stated someone who he allowed to hunt his property dumped the beets there for him to use. He stated he could not use all the beets and still wanted to feed them to his fowl. CO Gainforth took the time to educate the landowner on the bait laws and asked that the bait be either covered or relocated so that it would not be accessible to deer. CO Gainforth also advised the landowner that he is responsible for the other bait piles on his property and that they also need to comply with the baiting regulations. The landowner agreed to clean up the bait and also tell everyone who hunts his property to follow the regulations. CO Gainforth warned the landowner that if it was not cleaned up enforcement action would be taken.

Acting Sgt. Ben Shively was responding with a deputy to a complaint of a subject hunting with a rifle on public land during the late doe season when they observed a subject without a helmet operating an ORV against the flow of traffic while towing a trailer. As they attempted to catch up to the ORV, it turned down a two-track and headed back to a group of cabins. The ORV was tracked back to a cabin where they located the operator who had quickly unloaded an untagged doe from the trailer. The subject was interviewed, and it was found that another hunter had shot the doe that morning, and he was just bringing it back to be processed. Contact was made with the

shooter who arrived at the cabin a short time later. The subject on the ORV was cited for transporting an untagged deer, operating an ORV without a helmet, and warned on other ORV violations. The shooter was ticketed for failing to immediately attach/validate kill tag.

Acting Sgt. Ben Shively assisted Oceana County deputies in attempting to locate a disabled subject who had been missing for two hours from a gas station where he had walked away after receiving a ride. There was concern for the subject with falling temperatures and darkness combined with the subject's mental state. Acting Sgt. Shively located the disoriented subject with his walker on a side street. The subject was transported back to his family unharmed.

DISTRICT 5

Upon receiving a complaint of a suspicious/abandoned campsite in the Lake Skegemog Natural Area, CO Mike Hearn responded to investigate the scene. Upon investigation, it was determined that several of the items left at the campsite were reported stolen out of Antrim County. The items were removed and turned over to the Antrim County Sheriff's Office for fingerprinting and to be returned to the owner.

CO Josh Russell made contact with an archery hunter exiting the woods at the end of hunting hours. The hunter was quick to tell him that he had not seen any deer during the afternoon hunt. CO Russell asked the young man if he had gone out to buy an antlerless deer license and the subject responded "no." CO Russell quickly reminded the hunter that he had spoken with him a month earlier while helping his friend track a deer. At that time the hunter had bragged about "tagging out" on bucks for the season. Further investigation revealed that the hunter had failed to tag one of the bucks he had killed earlier in the season. Enforcement action was taken.

While serving a search warrant, Ogemaw County Sheriff Deputies located an untagged deer. They contacted CO Kyle Bader to assist. Once on scene, CO Bader located two untagged deer and one 9-point buck that was caped out and tagged. The woman living in the house was proud to tell CO Bader about her hunt and how she killed the 9-point. CO Bader confronted her with the fact that she had not purchased any licenses this year and that her daughter's license was on the deer. She tried to change her story but the picture on the refrigerator of her posing with the freshly killed 9-point sealed the case. She is being charged with multiple hunting offenses through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

On December 30, 2015, CO Kyle Bader received a call from dispatch with a complaint of someone shooting a deer with a firearm. CO Bader responded and interviewed the suspect. The man admitted to shooting a deer with a .30-30 rifle. He showed CO Bader the yearling deer, which was left in the swamp with only one front quarter removed. The man said he was embarrassed because he was aiming at a bigger buck, but missed and hit the smaller deer. He said that it took him so long to butcher the one quarter that

he gave up on the rest and left it in the swamp. He did not tag the deer. The man said he thought there was a muzzle loader season after the firearm season. CO Bader informed him there was but that it ended over two weeks ago and a .30-30 rifle is not considered a muzzle loader. Evidence also indicated that the man shot the deer from the back door of his residence. CO Bader seized the rifle, the deer, and an unused tag. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a rural area in the southern portion of Alcona County, CO Casey Pullum noticed a newly created illegal two-track on USFS land. CO Pullum also saw a pop-up blind about 100 yards in the woods at the end of the two-track. Further investigation revealed the blind was occupied with a crossbow hunter, who was hunting over a large amount of bait in a county that is closed to baiting. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

CO Jill Berry received a call from the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department about a boat that capsized and sank in Rainbow Lake. CO Berry contacted the driver of the boat and informed the subject that the boat had to be removed from the lake. After a few attempts with the dive teams, the subject removed the boat. A ticket for careless operation of a watercraft was issued.

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a complaint of over-baiting and trespassing. While on scene, the CO walked a wood lot and found a new blind with an excessive amount of deer bait. The bait consisted of beets, carrots, grains and salt blocks, and was estimated to be approximately 20 gallons. CO Gowenlock followed quad tracks which led across the road and into the back yard of a residence. Upon contact, the suspect admitted to placing the bait out and said he thought it was two 5-gallon buckets. Further investigation revealed that the suspect had purchased the property from a bank so there was no violation of trespassing. The suspect was issued a citation for violating the deer bait law.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly was working in the Shiawassee River State Game Area when he saw a boat with two duck hunters in violation of the slow no-wake rule. When the watercraft was stopped, Sgt. Kimmerly also noticed that the registration stickers showed that the registration expired in 2012. The driver said he forgot to put the new stickers on. Sgt. Kimmerly then asked to see the paper registration and the driver advised he did not have it on board. Sgt. Kimmerly checked through LEIN and found that the watercraft had not been registered since 2012. Sgt. Kimmerly asked if they had two life jackets on board, the operator advised that they did, and were under the bag of decoys. Sgt. Kimmerly waited for about a minute and then finally had to ask to see them. The operator lifted the decoy bag, and then advised that he must have left them in the truck. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers at the boat launch near Independence Bridge on the Saginaw River, CO Will Brickel was checking a vessel for marine safety equipment while talking to the vessel owner's young son. CO Brickel asked if they had caught any fish and the

young boy excitedly said "YES." He then ran to the live well and began to pull out the 12.5 inch walleye that his father had caught. Enforcement action was taken.

While doing marine/fish checks at a Saginaw River boat launch, CO Brickel stopped a vessel and began doing a marine and fish check. During the inspection several walleye appeared to be close to the 13" mark. After measuring several walleye, it was found that two fish were under the 13" minimum size limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson received a complaint that deer parts were dumped along the roadway. CO Robinson found the dump site that included several deer carcasses. While investigating, CO Robinson found two kill tags still attached to the remains of two of the deer. Contact was made with the subject who had purchased the tags. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Tyler Cole and CO Steve Mooney were on patrol for deer hunting activity when they drove into an area owned by a local school system that is not open to hunting. Upon driving into the woods, they observed a subject with a firearm walking down a two-track, who was not wearing hunter orange. The subject saw the approaching patrol vehicle and took off running. CO Cole began chasing the subject on foot, while CO Mooney attempted to cut off the subject with the patrol truck. After approximately a mile of chasing the subject on foot, the subject gave up to CO Cole. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas responded to an untagged deer complaint in Kalamazoo County. The complainant informed CO Cardenas that when he woke up he observed a lot of blood in his neighbor's yard that was not there the night before. The complainant also stated that he saw the neighbor rinsing off the deer and did not see a tag on it. CO Cardenas responded to the complaint and spoke with the subject. The subject provided a confession that he had shot the deer between 5:30-6:00am, right out of his front door, with his handgun. The subject did not possess the proper kill tags and shot the deer inside of the safety zone of three homes. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Andrew Monnich responded to a complaint of a trapper having his traps stolen. After following up on a few leads, CO Monnich located the traps being used in a field. While interviewing the suspects, they confessed to stealing the traps. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich and CO Chris Maher responded to a trespassing complaint involving a loose hunting dog that was caught by the complainant on his property. The

complainant also advised he had heard gun shots in the area. After canvassing the property, the COs located the hunters on the other side of the interstate. The three hunters were searching for their missing beagle that had jumped a whitetail deer and crossed the highway. The dog was returned and the hunters continued rabbit hunting.

CO Andrew Monnich was patrolling down a rural road when he came across a snowmobile and two ORVs doing donuts and ripping up the road on what little snow was available. Enforcement action was taken for numerous safety violations.

CO Larn Strawn investigated a RAP complaint of hunter harassment involving a group of small game hunters and a Clinton County homeowner. CO Strawn contacted and interviewed the hunters and the homeowner. CO Strawn discovered both parties were misinformed and took actions that created a conflict between them. The hunters were hunting the Clinton County Rail Trail when they were contacted and in their description “run off” by a homeowner. The hunters called the RAP hotline and reported the incident. The homeowner owns property and a residence along the rail trail. The homeowner became alarmed when he heard shooting coming from the rail trail and went outside to see who was shooting. The homeowner saw the hunters on the trail and chose to confront them because he believed the trail was closed to hunting. After interviewing everyone involved, CO Strawn was able to determine the hunters were licensed to hunt and the trail is open to hunting, however the homeowner’s safety zone has precedence along that specific section of rail trail, and cannot be hunted without first obtaining his permission. The hunters did not have permission to hunt within the safety zone. CO Strawn explained the hunter harassment, safety zone and state land access laws in detail with the hunters and homeowner. All were educated.

CO Matthew Neterer worked a case where a hunter posed with a 9-point buck killed on opening day of archery season. The suspect also posted about taking an 8-point buck on the morning of October 3rd. After checking RSS, it was discovered that the hunter hadn’t purchased his hunting licenses until 9 a.m. on October 3rd. CO Neterer responded to the suspect’s residence where two sets of antlers were located on the front porch matching the ones in the photos. After a brief interview, the suspect admitted to taking the deer under a CWD management permit and purchasing his hunting license after taking the 8-point buck. When the suspect produced the permit, it clearly stated that if an antlered deer was taken under the permit, that the antlers would not be returned to the hunter. The suspect admitted he knew he should have turned the antlers over to the Wildlife Division, but that he didn’t want to see them destroyed. Charges are being sought for illegally possessing a whitetail buck under a CWD management tag, taking an 8-point whitetail buck without a license, and failing to submit a deer for CWD testing within 72 hours.

CO Matthew Neterer worked a complaint of a subject who was using gravity fed corn feeders for deer. CO Neterer responded to the suspect's property where three gravity feeders were located filled with corn. The suspect was informed that gravity feeders were illegal in Michigan because the law states that any bait/feed has to be spread over a 10'x10' area to prevent the spread of disease. Enforcement action was taken and the suspect agreed to take the feeders down.

CO Chris Maher followed up on a complaint from December 3rd referencing the taking of a deer with a muzzleloader during closed season. Though the complaint had very few details and not much evidence, CO Maher went forward with an interview. After extended questioning, CO Maher was able to obtain a confession of shooting a deer during closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO David Schaumburger came across a group of young hunters in a boat with an expired registration that looked familiar to him. After making contact with the operator, CO Schaumburger realized it was a boat from the day before that he told the very same group of hunters not to use because it had an expired registration. The young hunters did not take the CO's suggestion very seriously, because the next day, CO Schaumburger located the hunters and the expired boat at the boat launch. Enforcement action was taken.

COs David Schaumburger and Chris Knights were patrolling Pointe Mouillee SGA checking for waterfowl hunting activity when they made contact with a group of hunters retrieving ducks from their successful hunt. Upon chatting with the hunters, one stated he used to be a hunter safety instructor. The COs started to check their equipment when they came across 2 loaded shotguns. The hunters did not know about the law that requires guns to be unloaded while their vessel is underway. Further checking revealed that the boat had improper display of registration numbers, did not have a registration decal, and also had no paper registration on board the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

COs David Schaumburger and Chris Knights were patrolling the Detroit River during the late waterfowl season and checked a pair of hunters near Humbug Marsh. The COs checked all their gear and while CO Schaumburger was going through one of the hunter's shotgun shells, he noticed approximately ten 2-½ inch reloaded shotgun shells. The hunter stated he was a long time hunter and only used the reloads to shoot crippled ducks. CO Schaumburger fed the reloads into the magazine tube and was able to fit 1 shell in the chamber along with 3 shells in the magazine tube. CO Schaumburger explained the law to the long time hunter that a gun cannot be capable of holding more than 3 shells in both barrel and magazine. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger was patrolling Sterling State Park when he encountered two dirt bikes being operated within the confines of the park. Both operators stopped at the

signal of the officer and before CO Schaumburger was able to say anything, both operators apologized for what they had done. They knew that ORVs were not allowed in the park but did not think they would be caught. Along with operating in the closed area, neither of the ORVs had an ORV license either. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger was checking a group of hunters at the boat launch and while going through one of the hunter's blind bag, the CO located lead shells. The hunter took one look at them and immediately realized his mistake, stating he just "grabbed a box of shells and threw them in there." Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Genesee County, Sgt. Jason Smith and CO Jeremy Beavers received a complaint that a subject shot a four point buck on December 26 with a shotgun. The complainant stated that after hearing two shots, he walked to the edge of his property and saw a hunter tracking a deer. The complainant saw the deer after it ran on his property, realizing that it was a four point buck. After discovering it was an antlered deer, the complainant contacted the Report All Poaching Hotline with the information. Sgt. Smith and CO Beavers met the complainant the next morning. The complainant stated the deer was still alive and was lying on his property, not far from where he believed it was shot. The complainant showed CO Beavers and Sgt. Smith where the deer was located. The deer was unable to move due to the injuries and was dispatched by the officers. The officers located the tree stand where the deer was shot and found empty 12 gauge shotgun shells. An additional doe carcass was located near the tree stand as well. The officers photographed the scene and then made contact with the hunter. The hunter stated that he was hunting on the afternoon of the 26th from the tree stand behind his house. The hunter stated he shot a deer but believed it was doe. The hunter stated that he was not allowed to retrieve the deer after killing it. The officers informed him that it was not a doe but a four point buck, noting the firearm deer season is closed. CO Beavers and Sgt. Smith obtained the suspect's licenses and noticed he was still in possession of all kill tags, including his over the counter antlerless tags. The hunter was questioned on the additional carcass and he stated that he shot it during the November firearm deer season. The officers asked why he did not immediately attach and validate his kill tag and he stated that he did not think he needed to do so. The hunter stated he believed since it was taken on private property he did not need to attach the kill tag. The officers informed him that harvested deer are to be immediately validated, no matter where the deer was taken. It was also discovered that the second antlerless tag was not purchased until 5:53 p.m., on December 26. In all, the hunter was found to be in violation of multiple laws, including failure to immediately attach a kill tag and take an antlered deer with a firearm during the closed season. The information obtained during the investigation will be forwarded to the county prosecutor for review.

In early December, CO Jeremy Beavers received a complaint that an unidentified subject was trespassing and hunting behind a vacant school in Genesee County. The school was identified as The Academy of Flint located in Mount Morris Township. The complaint stated that the person or people hunting come both in the morning and afternoon, occasionally staying long after the close of hours. After reviewing the information from the complaint, CO Beavers went to the location in order to investigate

and identify potential suspects. CO Beavers found and followed vehicle tracks on the west side of the school that led to a wooded area. CO Beavers then walked the wooded area, locating three hunting sites that included popup blinds, bait piles, and trail cameras. Only one of the sites was located on the school property, the remaining two on private property, located north of the school property. CO Beavers was unable to identify a potential subject during his initial search of the area. CO Beavers conducted several hours of surveillance of the area over multiple days throughout the month of December. CO Beavers surveilled the area in the morning and the evening but the site was inactive for most of the month. During the last week of the deer season, CO Beavers went to the school in the afternoon, shortly before the close of hunting hours. CO Beavers parked his patrol vehicle in a secluded area and then set out on foot to check activity in the area. He quickly identified a white SUV like the one described in the complaint parked near the woodlot on the northwest part of the property. Approximately ten minutes after the close of hours, a subject emerged from the woods dressed in camouflage and carrying what appeared to be empty bags of bait. The subject did not appear to be carrying a weapon. CO Beavers made contact with the subject once he was at the vehicle. During initial contact, CO Beavers obtained the subject's identification and hunting licenses. CO Beavers then inquired if the subject was responsible for all three hunting sites and if he had permission to hunt on school property. The subject stated he is responsible for all three sites, but one of the blinds belonged to a person who lives near the school. The subject explained this person told him he could hunt at that location. He went on to say that he had not been hunting before the contact, but was only at the location to put out bait. CO Beavers and the subject then checked all three sites. It was discovered that the subject was baiting and exceeding the two gallon limit by several gallons. CO Beavers then made contact with the person who gave the subject permission to hunt. The person stated he gave the subject permission to hunt on the property north of the school property but did not realize the subject was on school grounds. The person explained he has permission to hunt the other property but no longer does due to his health and age and that is why he let the subject in question hunt the area. After clearing up the confusion of the location, CO Beavers explained to the subject he should identify the owner of the school property and contact them if he wants to continue to hunt the property. CO Beavers informed him that he can continue to hunt the property to the north but would have to enter from a different location. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was patrolling Highland Recreational Area and made contact with three hunters. CO Becker asked the subjects if they had any deer licenses. The subjects handed CO Becker licenses and CO Becker asked one of the hunters if they had a buck license. The hunter advised CO Becker that he must have left it at home. While checking the retail license system, CO Becker found that the subject was deer hunting with a private land antlerless license on public land and had not purchased a regular deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in the Detroit River, CO Christopher Knights and CO David Schaumburger checked some waterfowl hunters near the boat club. The hunters spent the night to get the spot on the island, this is an area frequented by waterfowl. After

completing checks on the hunters, CO Knights conducted a plug check and found one of the firearms without a plug and an unsigned federal duck stamp. The hunter stated his father cleans his gun and didn't bother to check before going out into the field for a plug. CO Knights advised him of the law and why it's necessary to have a plug, as well as a signed duck stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights was leaving Detroit when he received a call from the care taker of a property in Holly Township, Oakland County. The complainant stated he was out hunting and just as it was getting dark an ORV came a few hundred yards onto his property. The ORV stopped for a while and waited till dark to return back to a trail into the woods. The complainant didn't know where the ORV went after that due to darkness. CO Knights contacted his partner CO Jason Becker. CO Becker was the first on scene and spoke to the complainant and other hunters allowed on the property. CO Knights met CO Becker and the complainant a little ways away from where the ORV came out. The complainant stated he wasn't sure if they took a deer, but they never turned on the ORV headlights. CO Knights and CO Becker walked the area and located tracks. The tracks led them into the woods behind a few different properties. Instead of giving themselves away, they parked their trucks down the road and walked along side other properties. They managed to get through a couple marshes and fences where they were able to pick up the tracks again. CO Knights and CO Becker followed the tracks through the woods and came up to the backside of a property that led to a large pole barn. Both COs went to the residence and made contact with the home owner. After questioning him, the suspect admitted to using his quad to retrieve a deer his friend had shot just before dark. After further questioning, the suspect stated his friend shot a 6 point buck with his shotgun. The suspect stated he knew they were trespassing, but with the lack of deer on his property this current season, they couldn't resist taking the deer. CO Knights and CO Becker got the address to the individual who shot the deer and arrived at his residence the same night to interview him. The hunter stated he shot the deer while trespassing. He also stated he knew he took an antlered deer during antlerless deer season. The deer was already dressed and head cut off. The COs took the deer and head and gathered all other pertinent evidence. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin checked Millikan State Park for occupants after hours while working Christmas Eve. CO Griffin found multiple subjects on park property that was closed. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jason J. Smith responded to a waterfowl complaint on Lake Ponemah in Genesee County when he observed four people in kayaks coming toward him. Sgt. Smith made contact with the boaters who were not hunting but just out enjoying themselves on the water. After some small talk Sgt. Smith discovered that two of the kayakers were in possession of marijuana and none of the kayakers had any PFDs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel reports that the subject who intentionally ran over a family of geese in the parking lot of a marina pled guilty to four counts of taking geese during the closed

season this week. The subject paid \$490.00 in fines and costs, \$3,500.00 in reimbursement and \$40.00 in judgement fees.

CO Brad Silorey received a tip regarding fishermen in kayaks taking gross over limits of pan fish in some local canals. CO Silorey patrolled the area for several days until he found two subjects who fit the description in the tip. After observing the anglers from a distance, CO Silorey was able to make contact with the subjects at their residence. The two anglers were not over their limit of fish, however a marine violation was observed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was dispatched to a complaint that was submitted by a local police agency. The complaint was in regards to a person who was shooting at deer with a crossbow out of his home. CO Silorey arrived at the suspect's home to interview him and obtained a confession. The suspect admitted to killing two antlerless deer and tagging them with another person's tags. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received information of a subject shooting an over limit of deer. The subject had bought a combination license and then a week later reported it lost. The subject subsequently bought a second combination license and went on to shoot two does and two bucks throughout the season. CO Kovach was able to interview the subject and obtain a full confession. The over limit of deer were seized and donated to a local family in need. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Zultak received a complaint of an individual who had been hunting with a firearm without hunting licenses. Upon investigation, CO Zultak located the subject. The subject was a felon who was in possession of a shotgun. An untagged deer with a firearm wound and a back strap cut out was also located in the area. The subject said he found the deer and did not know who shot it. He said he did recover the deer and had been consuming it. The subject had a warrant and was lodged at the local jail. A report will be submitted regarding the firearm and tagging violations.

While patrolling the Lapeer State Game, CO Matthew Zultak observed subjects target shooting at a television. The unlawful use of the television violates a land use law in the state game area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Zultak responded to a trespass complaint in Lapeer County. During the investigation CO Zultak located an untagged white-tailed antlerless deer and a six point whitetail buck tagged incorrectly. A report will be submitted to the Lapeer County prosecutor for multiple count warrants.

A trespass complainant turned over a dog proof trap they had found on their property to CO Ben Lasher. In turn, CO Lasher looked up the information from the trap tag and interviewed the trapper, who did not have a 2015 fur harvester's license. The trapper had set some raccoon traps and one pulled away and drug the trap to one of the

adjacent property owners, who found the trap. The trap was returned to the trapper; enforcement action taken.

CO Ben Lasher was checking on some DTE property and watched a suspect hunter enter the property from a neighboring property. CO Lasher contacted the suspect walking from a corn field to get to the edge of the bean field near the end of hunting hours. The suspect stated he did not see any "no trespassing" signs on the harvested corn field and had seen other hunters on the property. CO Lasher advised him farm fields and adjacent wood lots do not need to be posted against trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

BELLE ISLE

CO Pete Purdy and CO Justin Muehlhauser worked a midnight shift on New Year's Eve on Belle Isle. That evening, they made contact with the occupants of six different vehicles who drove past security at the entrance believing the island would be open past 10:00 p.m. since it was New Year's Eve. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a day shift on Belle Isle, CO Mike Haas and CO Dan Robinson were preparing to end their shift as CO Seth Rhodea was arriving to start his. The COs received a call from MSP dispatch that an individual was missing for approximately 30 minutes while picking up signs and cones from his event and was found unconscious in his vehicle. The individual turned out to be an event coordinator for a 5k race that had just finished on the island. All three COs arrived on scene to find the male subject unresponsive. They performed CPR and utilized the AED on the subject until EMTs arrived on scene. The subject had a history of cardiac arrest and it was believed he had suffered from another heart attack. The subject was taken to a local hospital. The victim's condition is unknown at this time.

CO Chris Maher worked on Belle Isle on Christmas Day. While on the island, he spoke with several citizens about conservation and wildlife issues. Some verbal warnings were given on minor issues.